



POCKET PETS

- Small mammals (hamsters, gerbils, etc.) should be transported in secure carriers suitable for maintaining the animals while sheltered.
- Take bedding materials, food bowls, and water bottles.



RETURNING HOME

Planning and preparation will help you weather the disaster, but your home may be a very different place afterward, whether you have taken shelter at home or elsewhere. Be patient with your pets. Try to get them back into their normal routines, and be ready for behavioral problems that may result from stress. Don't allow your pets to roam loose as they may consume potentially contaminated food and water. Familiar landmarks and smells might be gone, and your pet will probably be disoriented. For a few days, keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers inside the house. If your house is damaged, they could escape and become lost or injured. If behavioral or medical problems persist, consult with your veterinarian.



To get involved with county emergency preparedness & response efforts supporting emergency pet sheltering or to join a County Animal Response Team (CART) contact:

Maine Emergency Management Agency

www.maine.gov/mema

or

Department of Agriculture

www.maine.gov/agriculture/ahi

Get Prepared With Help From:

The Humane Society of the United States
www.hsus.org/disaster

The United Animal Nation www.uan.org

Prepared by:

The Maine Emergency Management Agency

72 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0072
207-624-4400

www.maine.gov/mema
and the

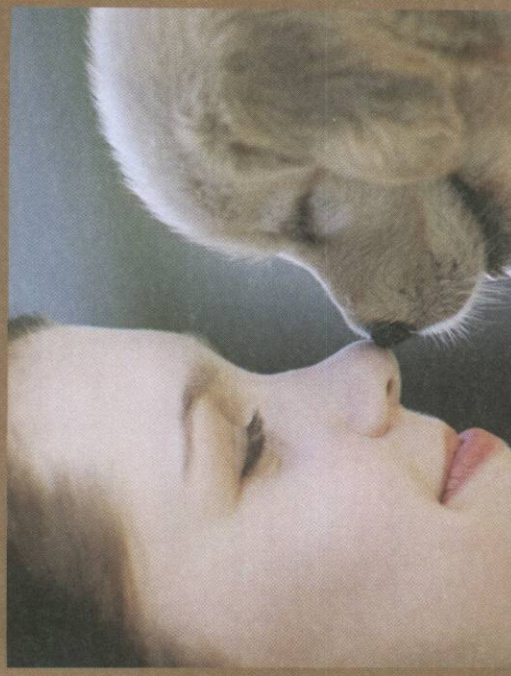
The Maine Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health & Industry

28 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0028
207-287-3701



www.maineprepares.com

Protect Your PETS



Officials from the **Maine Emergency Management Agency**, **County Emergency Management Agencies** and **Maine Department of Agriculture** know that pets enrich our lives in more ways than we can count. In turn, they depend on us for their safety and well being. Here's our message: **Take these steps to be prepared to protect your pets when disaster strikes.**



WWW.MAINEPREPARES.COM

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR PETS

Every year, we are warned to prepare our families for hurricanes, floods, winter storms and other natural disasters. However, we often forget to plan for our pets and other animals. Such oversight, particularly during an emergency evacuation, is likely to result in their being injured, lost or worse. A preparedness plan is crucial no matter where you may live and should include a disaster supplies kit, a written plan, and if possible, get some first aid and CPR training for pets.

BE PREPARED WITH A DISASTER PLAN

The best way to protect your family from the effects of a disaster is to have a disaster plan. If you are a pet owner, that plan must include your pets. Being prepared can save their lives. Different disasters require different responses. Whether the disaster is a flood, fire or ice storm, you may have to evacuate your home and that includes taking your pets with you. If it's not safe for you to stay in the disaster area, it's not safe for your pets.



CREATE A PORTABLE SURVIVAL KIT FOR YOUR PET

- You have primary responsibility for your pets and should create a disaster supplies kit for your pets that includes:
- Identification collar and current rabies tag.
 - Cat litter and litter pan.
 - Animal carrier or cage and leash. Keep in mind that your animal may have to be in the carrier or cage for hours at a time so you may need blankets or towels for bedding and warmth. Make sure to write your name, address and phone number.
 - Medications and veterinary records stored in waterproof container. Be sure to check the expiration dates for all medicines. Veterinary records are necessary because animal shelters may require proof of vaccination!
 - Newspapers and plastic trash bags for handling waste.
 - At least a two-week supply of food, potable water and food bowls.
 - Other useful items include paper towels, grooming items, and household bleach.

AS THE DISASTER APPROACHES

- Don't wait until the last minute to get ready.
- Warnings for some disasters may be issued hours, or even days, in advance.
- Bring pets into the house and confine them so you can leave with them quickly if necessary. Make sure each pet and pet carrier or cage has up-to-date information about your temporary shelter location.
- Make sure your disaster supplies are ready to go.

HAVE A SAFE PLACE TO TAKE YOUR PETS

Not all emergency shelters are equipped to take in animals. You must plan ahead to ensure that your family and pets will have a safe place to stay. Don't wait until disaster strikes to do your research. Locate pet friendly shelters within your county. Locate pet friendly hotels and motels outside your immediate area. Ask about any restrictions on number, size, and species. Check with friends, relatives, or others outside your immediate area to see if they would shelter you and/or your animals. Contact veterinary clinics or boarding facilities to see if they will provide shelter for your animals in an emergency.



IF YOU EVACUATE, TAKE YOUR PETS

If you must evacuate, the most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to evacuate them too. Leaving pets behind, even if you try to create a safe place for them, is likely to result in their being injured, lost or killed. Prepare now for the day when you and your pets may have to leave your home unexpectedly.

IF YOU DON'T EVACUATE

- If your family and pets must wait out a storm or other disaster at home, identify a safe area of your home where you can all stay together.
- Be able to find the leash and animal crates/carriers/cages at a moments notice.
- Have any medications and a supply of pet food and water inside watertight containers, along with your other emergency supplies.

IN CASE YOU'RE NOT HOME

An evacuation order may come, or a disaster may strike, when you're at work or away from home.

- Make arrangements well in advance for a neighbor to take your pets and meet you at a specified location. Be sure that the person is comfortable with your pets, knows where your animals are likely to be, knows where your disaster supplies are kept, and has a key to your home.
- If you use a pet-sitting service, it may be able to help, but discuss the possibility well in advance.

CARING FOR BIRDS IN AN EMERGENCY

- Birds should be transported in a secure travel cage or carrier.
- In cold weather, wrap a blanket over the carrier and warm up the car before placing birds inside.
- During warm weather, carry a plant mister to mist the birds' feathers periodically.
- Do not put water inside the carrier during transport.
- Provide a few slices of fresh fruit and vegetables with high water content.
- Have a photo for identification and leg bands.
- Try to keep the carrier in a quiet area.
- Do not let the birds out of the cage or carrier.



ABOUT OTHER PETS/REPTILES

- Snakes can be transported in a pillowcase but they must be transferred to more secure housing when they reach the evacuation site.
- If your snakes require frequent feeding, carry food with you.
- Take a water bowl large enough for soaking as well as a heating pad.
- When transporting house lizards, follow the same directions as for birds.

